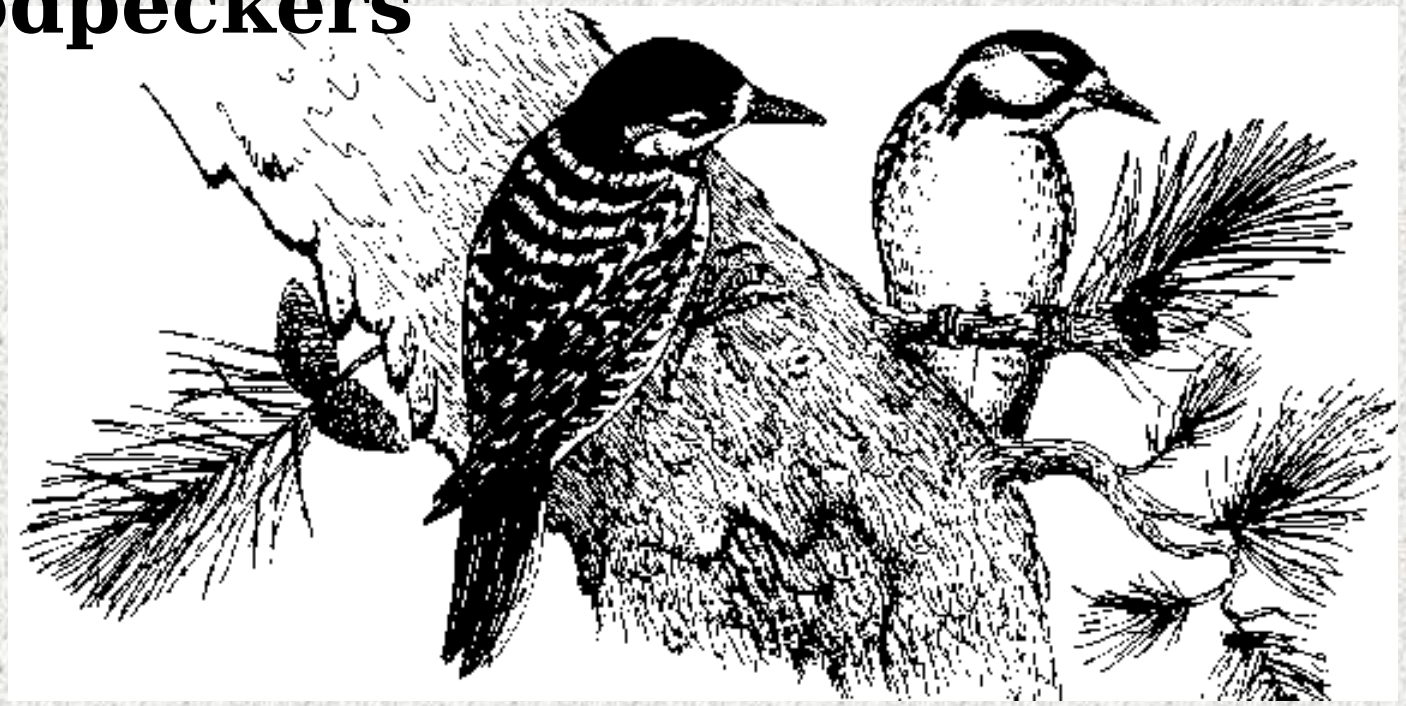
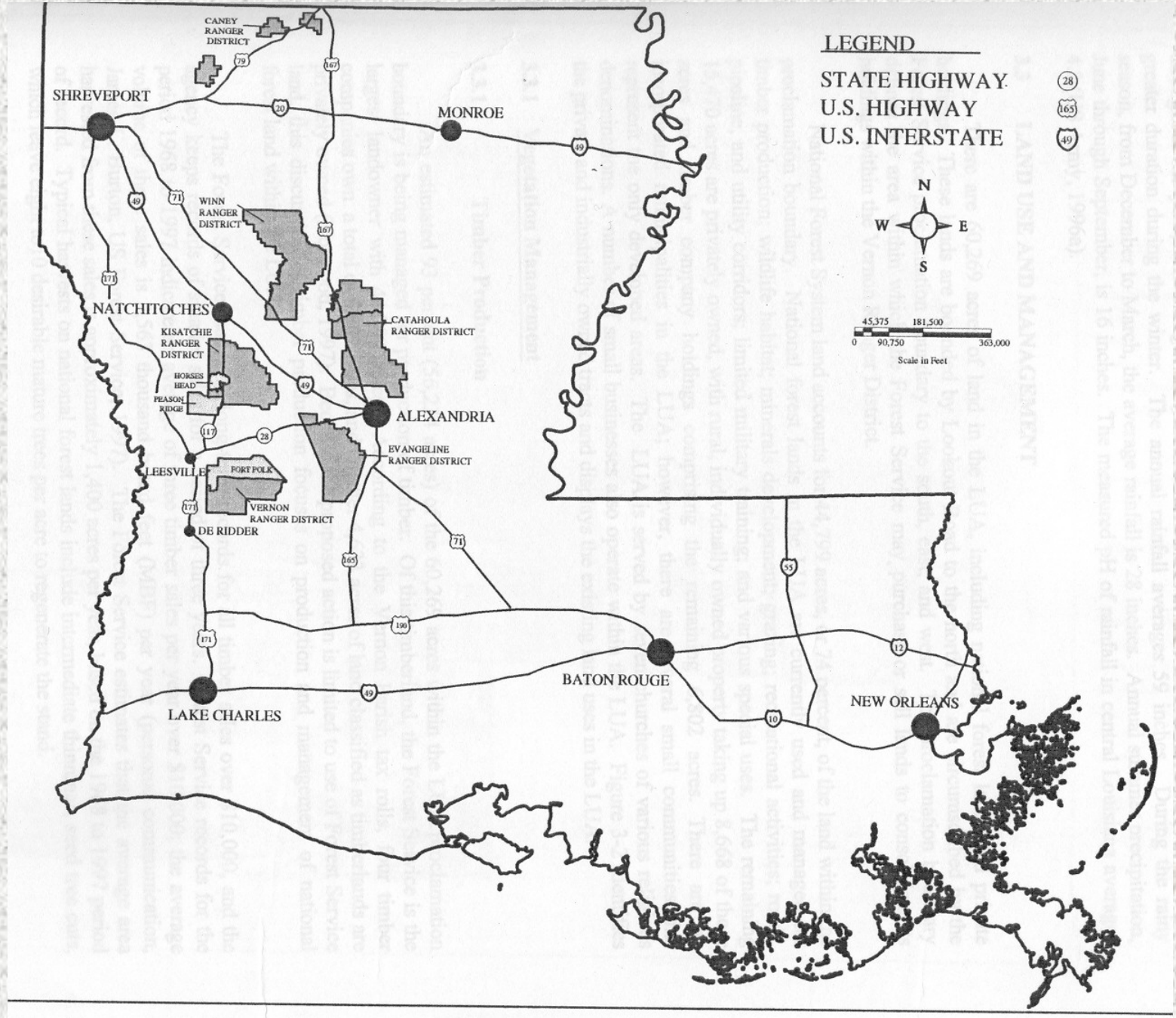
Increased Military Training U
of the
Kisatchie National Forest by For

ESA Consultation for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers



U.S. Army, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Louisiana
and
U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana


LEGEND
STATE HIGHWAY 28
U.S. HIGHWAY 165
U.S. INTERSTATE 49
N
W
E
S
45,375 181,500
0 90,750 363,000
Scale in Feet
CANEY RANGER DISTRICT
SHREVEPORT
MONROE
WINN RANGER DISTRICT
NATCHITOCHES
CATAHOULA RANGER DISTRICT
KISATCHIE RANGER DISTRICT
HORSES HEAD
PEASON RIDGE
ALEXANDRIA
EVANGELINE RANGER DISTRICT
LEESVILLE
FORT POLK
VERNON RANGER DISTRICT
DE RIDDER
LAKE CHARLES
BATON ROUGE
NEW ORLEANS

Primary Mission

Support Joint Training Readiness Training

Train: Army, Air Force, Army National Guard, Navy, Marines

Balanced and Integrated Resource Ma

Healthy, sustainable ecosystems

Biologically diverse ecosystems

Commodity resource use in environmentally friendly manne

Protect natural and cultural values

Scenic quality and outdoor experience

HISTORY OF MILITARY USE ON KNF

1941 – Army authorized to establish Camp Polk on 28,000 acres of KNF Vernon District

WWII – Army authorized use of areas on KNF for training

Post WWII – Army training on KNF authorized through special use permits

1988 - USDA and DOD MOA on military use of National Forest

1992 – Special Use Permit for operating plan and resource management scheduling

1993 – 5th Infantry relocated to Fort Hood

– Joint Readiness Training Center established

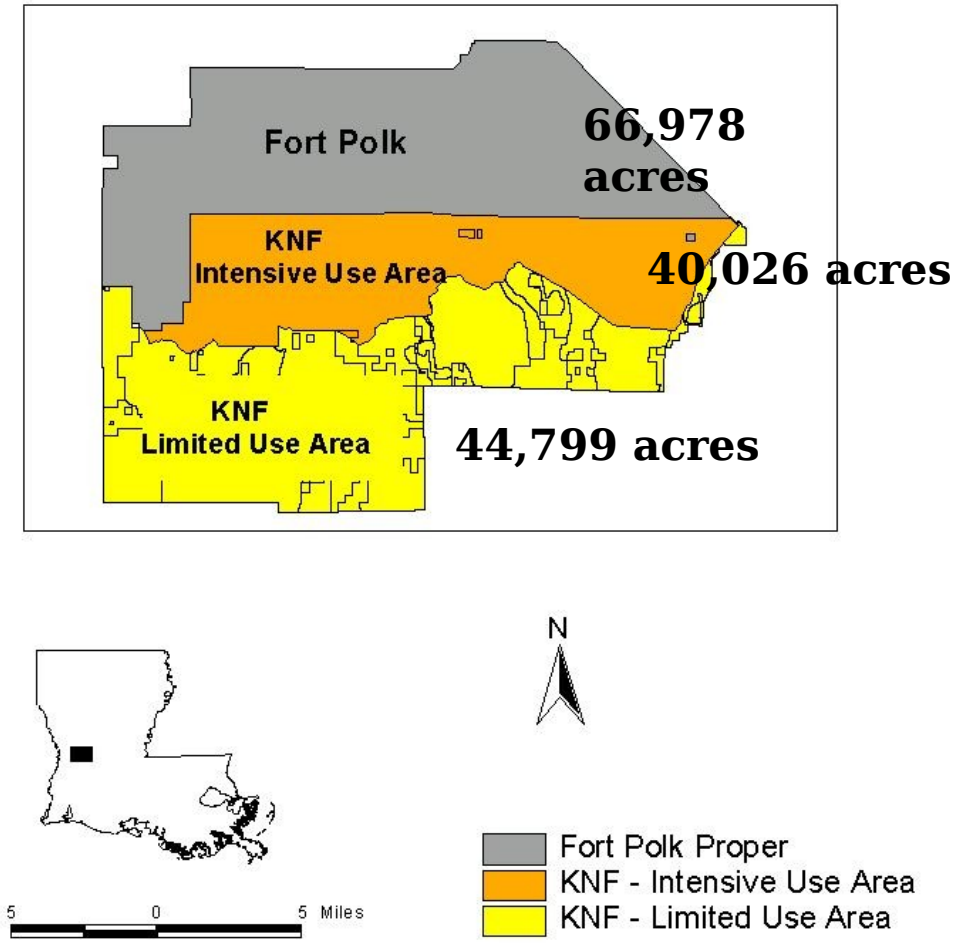


Figure 2. Fort Polk - Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) (Vernon Unit) Military training Areas in Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Military Use Areas on KNF
Vernon District

Intensive Use Area

Pre-1993 – Tank and small arms training

Post-1993 – Maneuver and live-fire training

10 JRTC rotations each year

Limited Use Area

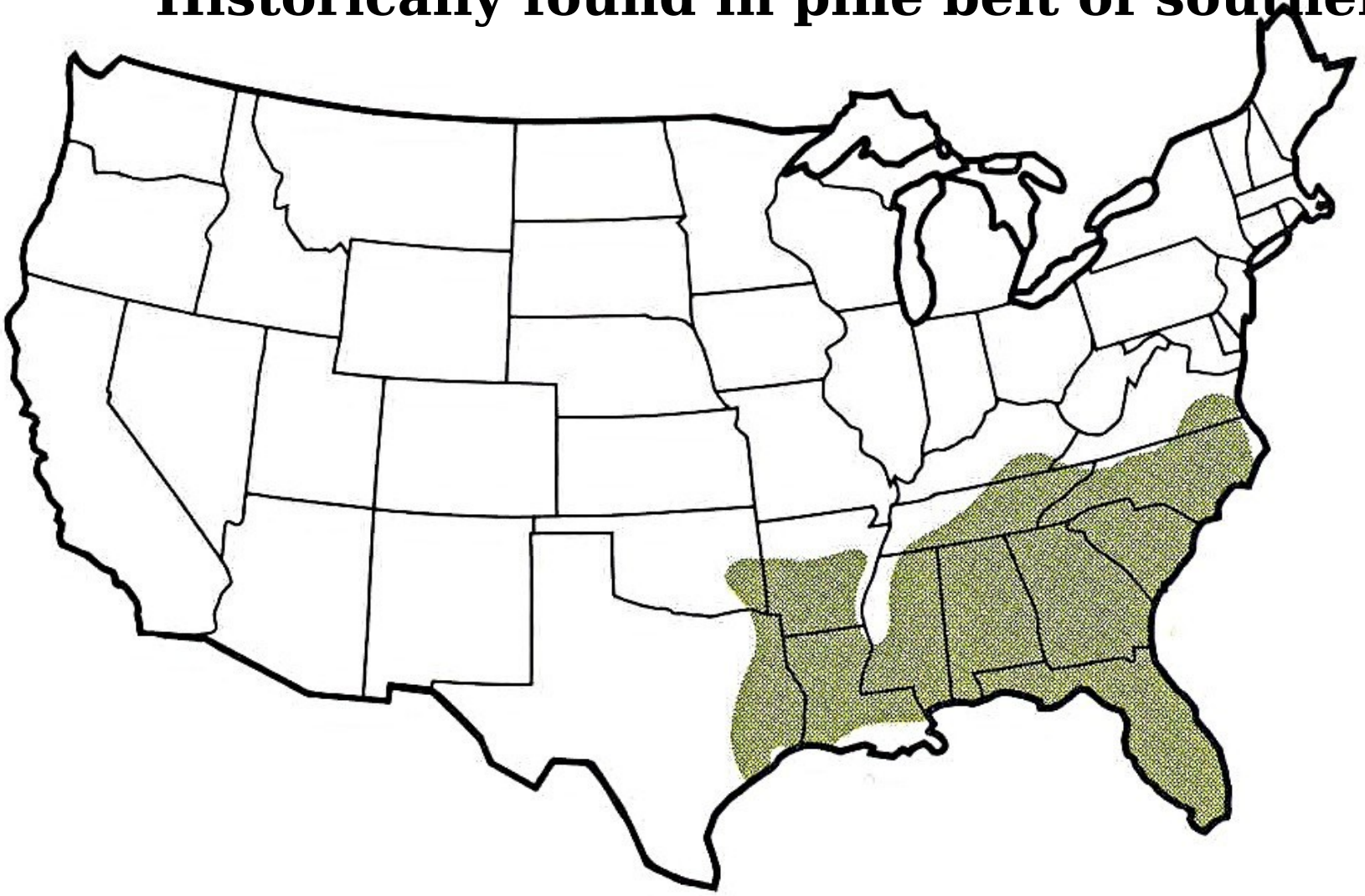
1988 - Low intensity, minimal environmental im

29 training events (land navigation, patroll
helicopter landings, patrolling, etc.)

Endangered
Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Picoides borealis

Historically found in pine belt of southern U



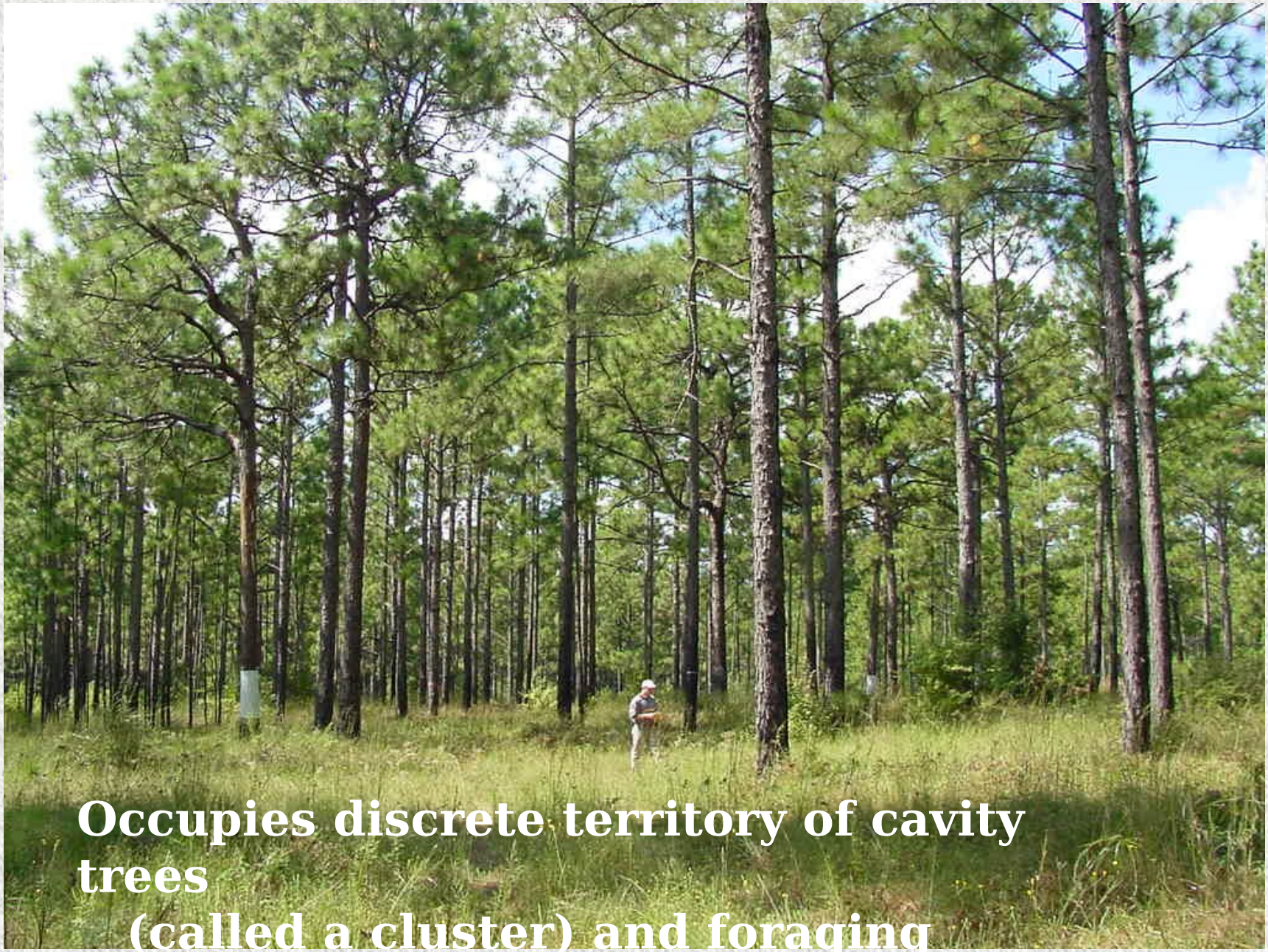
Range is now limited and fragmented

Preferred nesting habitat
- Longleaf Pine
- trees > 10" diameter at breast height
- trees > 60 years old
- little to no midstory
- frequently burned

RCW starts
- circular
- 2" diameter
- smooth
- reddish look
RCW active cavities
- 2" diameter
- circular
- resin wells
- plate
- white sap

Territorial, non-migratory

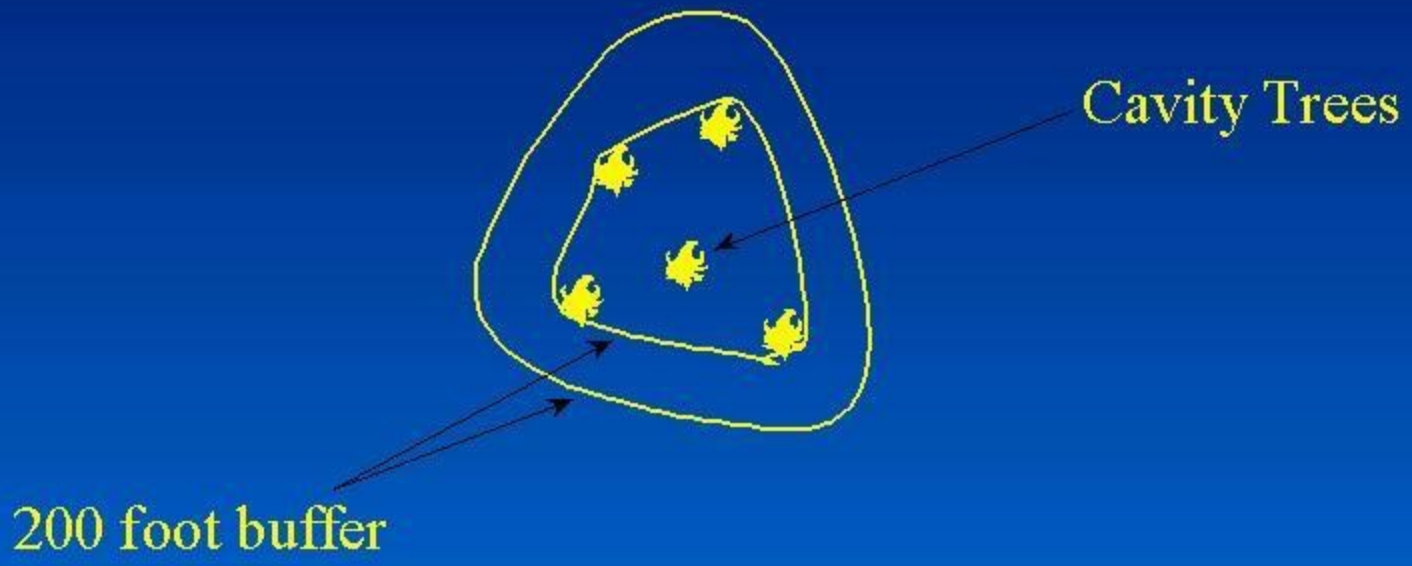
Cooperative breeding



Occupies discrete territory of cavity trees
(called a cluster) and foraging habitat

Cluster site

- Group of all active and inactive cavity trees used by one group of birds plus 200 feet.
- Must be at least 10 acres



Accelerate population growth
with artificial cavities
(inserts)

Recruitment cluster

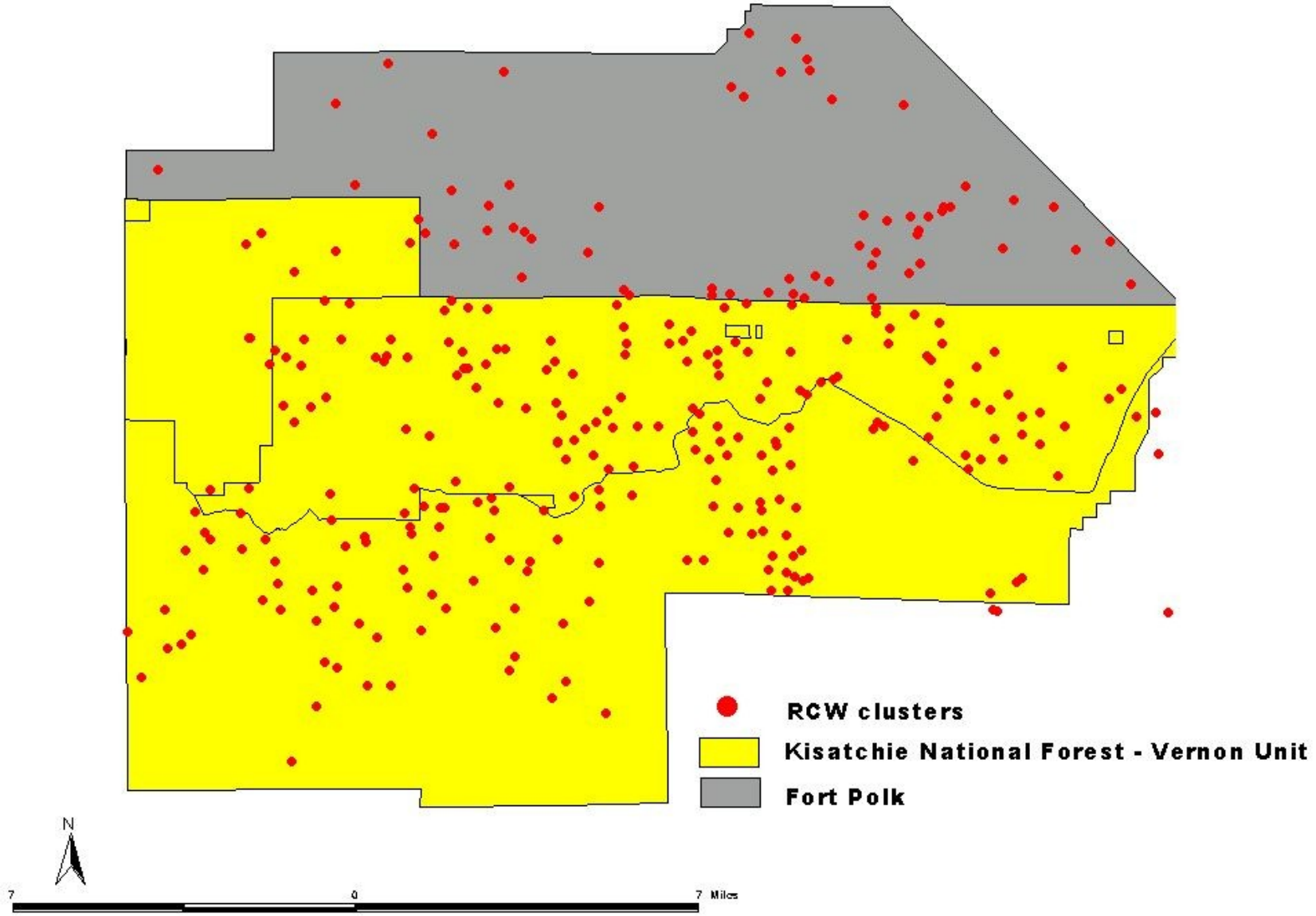
RCWs on KNF and Fort Polk

KNF – Vernon District –179 active RCW clust

Fort Polk – 44 active RCW clusters

- **RCWs on Fort Polk and Vernon considered population**
- **Designated recovery population**
- **Vernon Unit is donor population**
- **Managed separately by each agency**

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Occurrence



RCW Guidance

1985 FWS RCW Recovery Plan

KNF

- **1995 FEIS RCW Management on National Forests**

- **1999 Final Revised Land and Resource Management Plan**

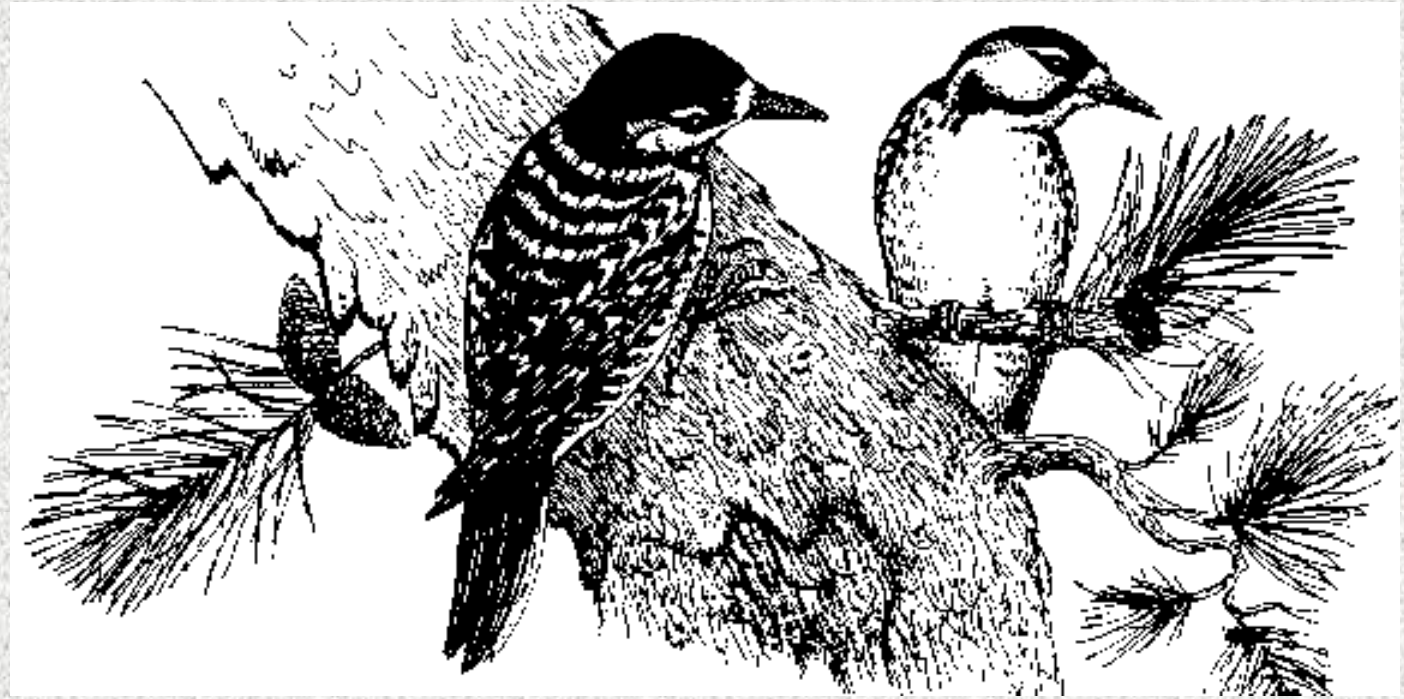
Fort Polk

- **1996 Revised Amy RCW Management Guidelines**

- **1996 FWS Biological Opinion on Effects of Amy Management**

Guidelines on RCWs

Increased Military Use of LUA



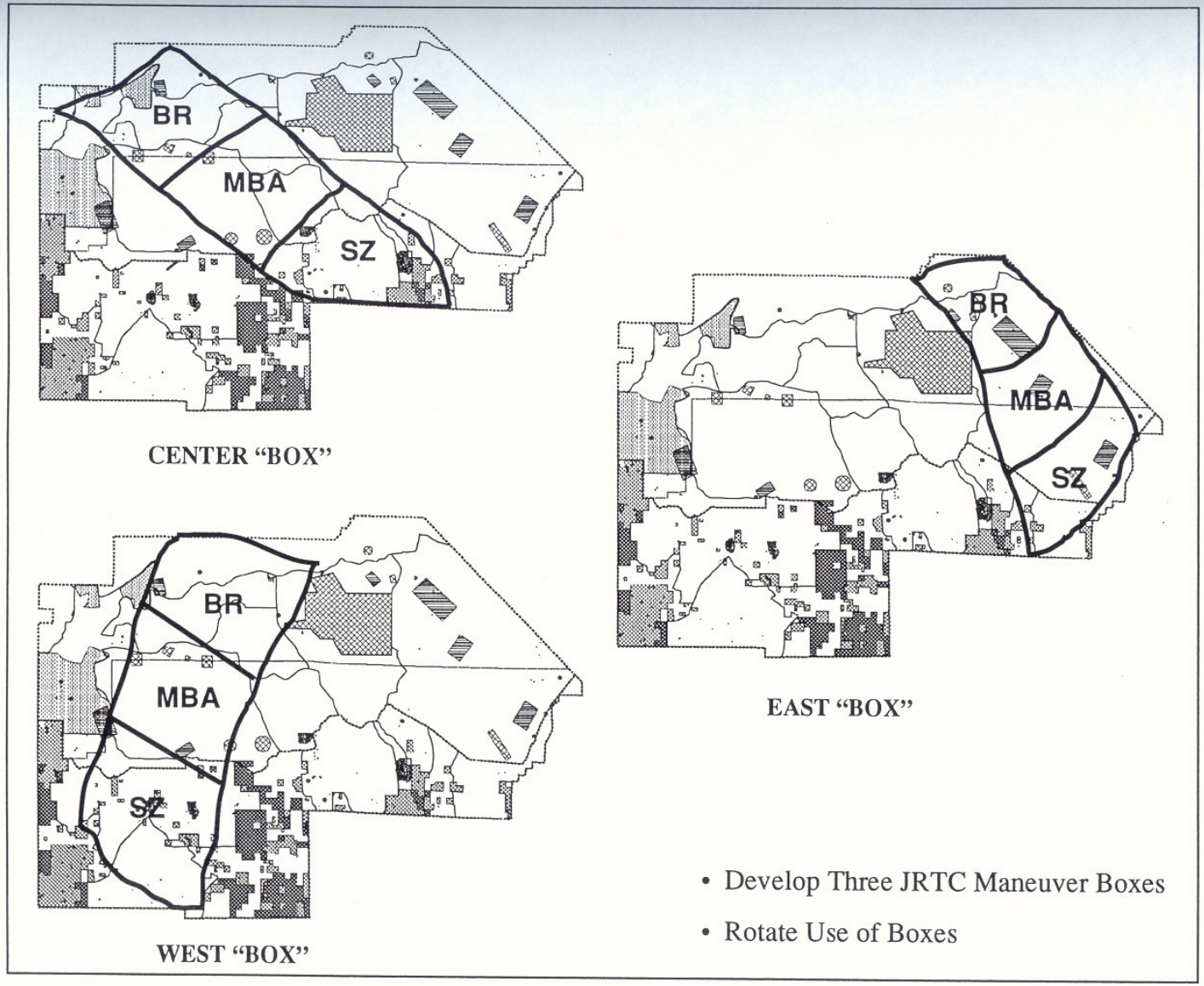


Figure 1-7
Training Development Model
(JRTC Maneuver Boxes)

Increased Military Use of LUA

1996 Amendment to Defense authorization h
legislative transfer of Vernon Ranger D
to Fort Polk (caused public concern and lat

DOD – USDA MOA addresses military traini

Prepare EA on 29 recurrent training uses of LUA
(SUPA issued in 1997)

<u>Prepare EA on new intensive military use</u>

Increased Military Use of LUA -19

- KNF and Fort Polk informally consult with FWS on draft EA and draft BE
- Due to high degree of public concern consultation is closely followed by environmental groups
- KNF and Fort Polk preparing separate docu

Current Training Levels in LUA

29 “low intensity” military exercises

- **Small units at scheduled time periods and loca**
- **Occur over 90% of LUA**
- **Foot and vehicle traffic permitted on existing r in RCW clusters**
- **All other disturbances restricted within cluste**
- **Occurred 12-278 days/year**

Determined not likely to adversely affect -1

Proposed Training Levels in LUA

20 "low intensity" military exercises

(re-organized from the 29 activities)

- ***Firing of blanks***

6 new military exercises

- ***Cross-country vehicle maneuvers***
- ***Blackout driving***
- ***Use of pyrotechnics and artillery simulation devi***
- **Construction of hasty/limited defensive positions**
- **Emplacement of obstacles**
- **Establishment of forward/rear support areas**

Proposed Training Levels in LUA

6 new military exercises

- **Would not occur within clusters (except for use of existing roads)**
- **No training in April, November, December, and October in West Zone**
  January in East Zone; otherwise restricted access
- **Decrease in number of training days/year**
- ***Increase in training frequency and intensity***
- **No access restrictions for KNF RCW activities**

Issues Raised During Informal Consultat

- Firing of blanks within clusters
- Consistent marking of clusters
- Fire suppression
- Maneuver damage inspection and repair
- Overall increase in training frequency and inte
- Disturbance to “isolated” clusters

Conservation Measures

- **Compliance Monitoring**
- **No LUA Army National Guard Training**
- **Modify EXROE for restricted areas**
- **Environmental Compliance Course**
- **Leader’s Environmental Handbook**

Conservation Measures

- **Manage RCWs on KNF by FEIS and Forest Plan**
- **KNF unrestricted access to LUA for RCW management**
- **Fort Polk assist with fire control**
- **Fort Polk assists KNF with digital database**
- **Fort Polk assists KNF with RCW manageme**

Information Needed to Evaluate Effects

- **Effects of current training activities**
- **Effects proposed training increase**

- **Describe training levels**
- **Analyze RCW response to training levels**

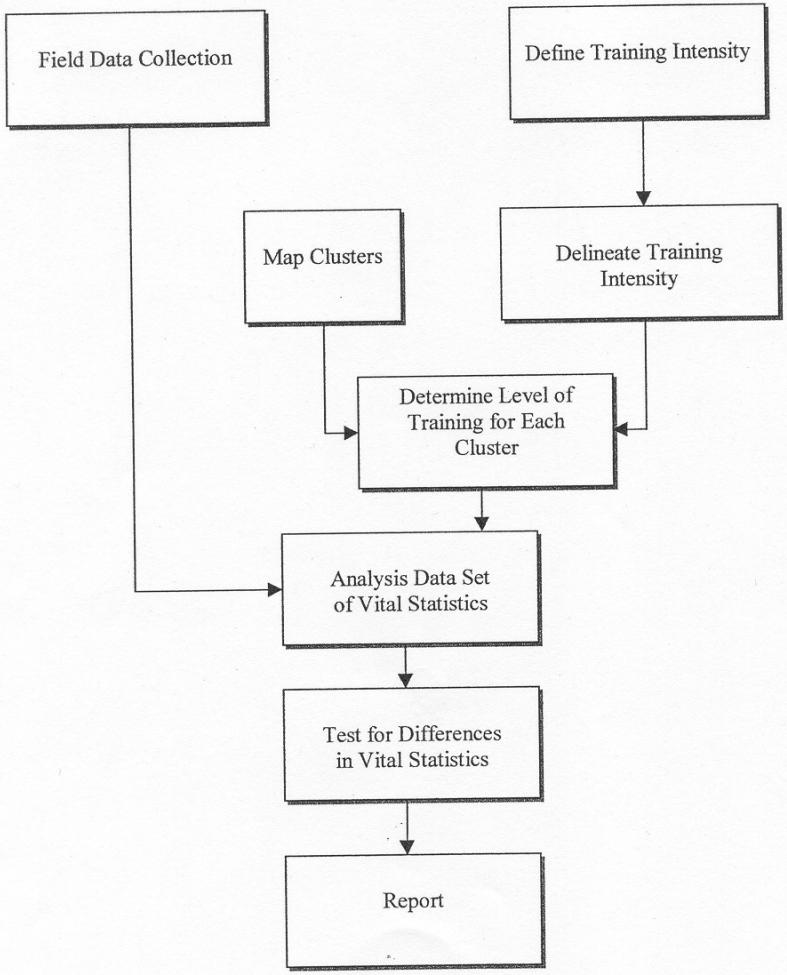


Figure 1. Outline summary of the analysis process to investigate potential effects of military training on red-cockaded woodpecker reproduction on lands used by Fort Polk, Louisiana, 1992 though 1998.

Training Intensity Levels – Wagner 1999

Typical numbers of personnel, average days of use,

Low Level

Restrictions on use of pyrotechnics, live-fire, digging, off-roa
movement of military vehicles, blackout driving,
150-300 personnel
Less than 245 days/year

Moderate Level

Helicopter landing zones, bivouac areas, roads
150 to 300 personnel
245 – 330 days/year

High Level

Live fire, large maneuver training event
Up to 6,000 personnel
Extended time periods

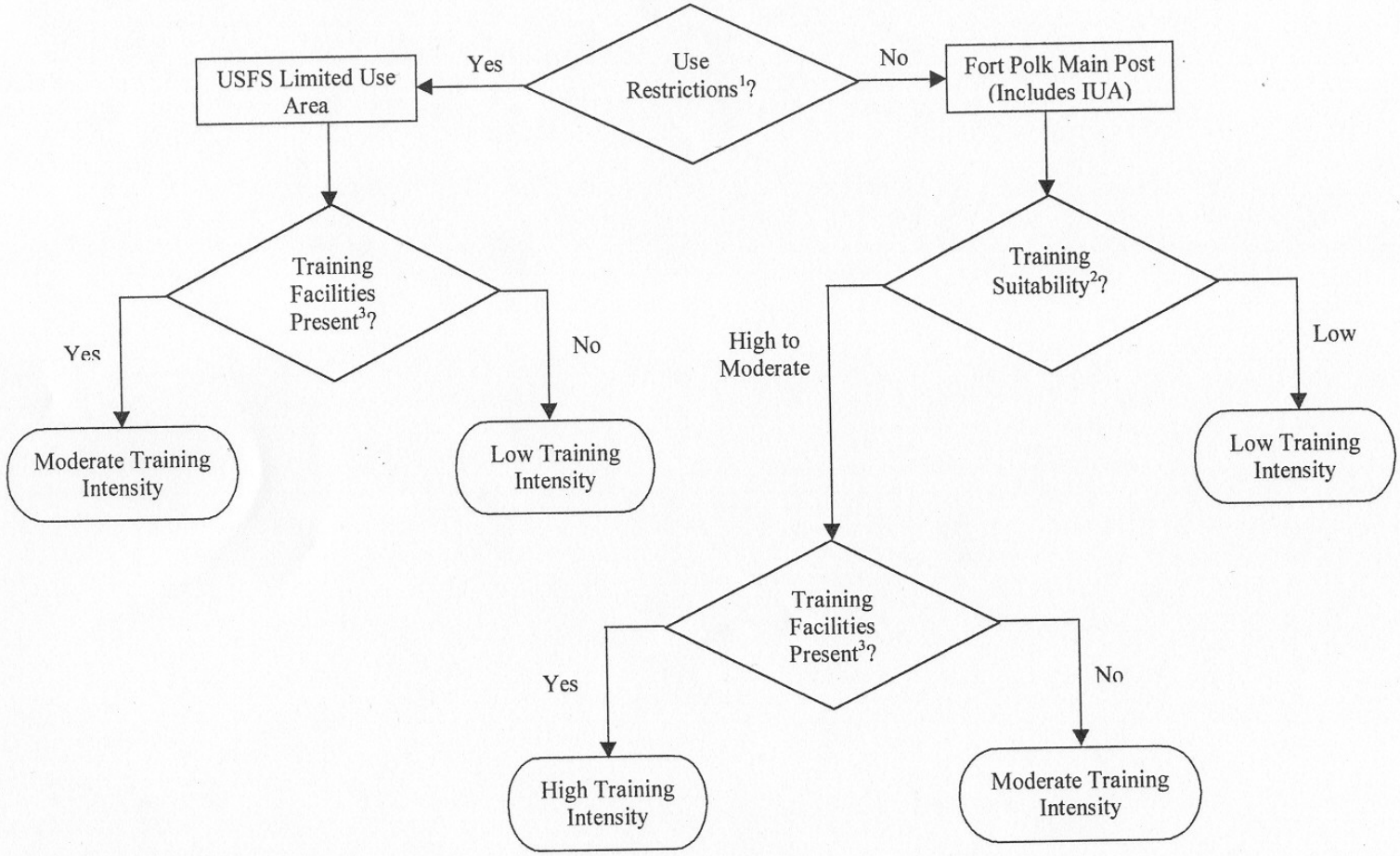


Figure 3. Decision flow process for determining training intensity on US Army and US Forest Service Land at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Notes: [1] Use Restrictions preclude the use of live fire, pyrotechnics, cross-country driving, digging, and black-out night driving; [2] Training Suitability refers to the value of an area for military training purposes, defined as follows: High = Tactically valuable, typically high ground in close proximity to roads or other training facilities, Moderate = terrain is less suitable for tactical purposes and/or is not in close proximity to roads or training facilities, Low = areas of low tactical value, typically low ground or constrained by waterways or other limiting boundaries; and [3] Training Facilities include helicopter landing zones, landing strips/drop zones, live fire ranges, firing points, impact areas, mock villages/compounds, etc.

RCW Environmental baseline

- **Locations and status of RCW clusters**

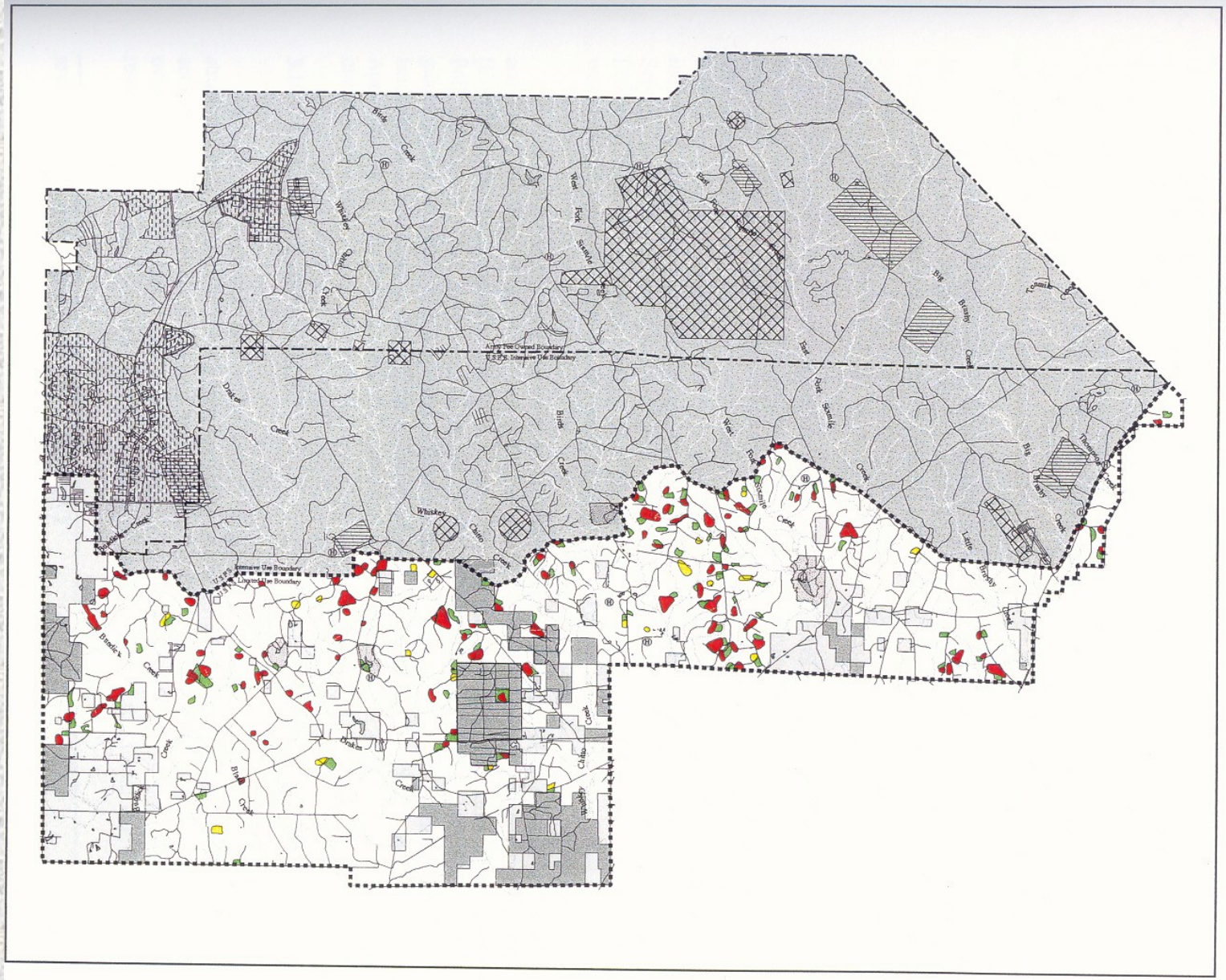
  Active or inactive

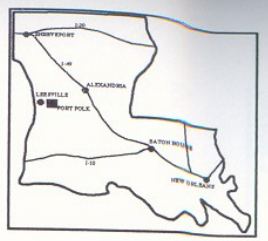
  Reproduction

  Isolated or near roads

- **Historic and current training exposure**

  Isolated or exposed





LEGEND

- LUA Boundary
- Fort Polk Boundary
- Roads
- Streams
- Water
- Fort Polk Installation
- Cantonment Area
- Private Land
- Timber Company Land
- Recreation Areas
- Impact Areas
- Drop Zones
- Helicopter Pad (H)

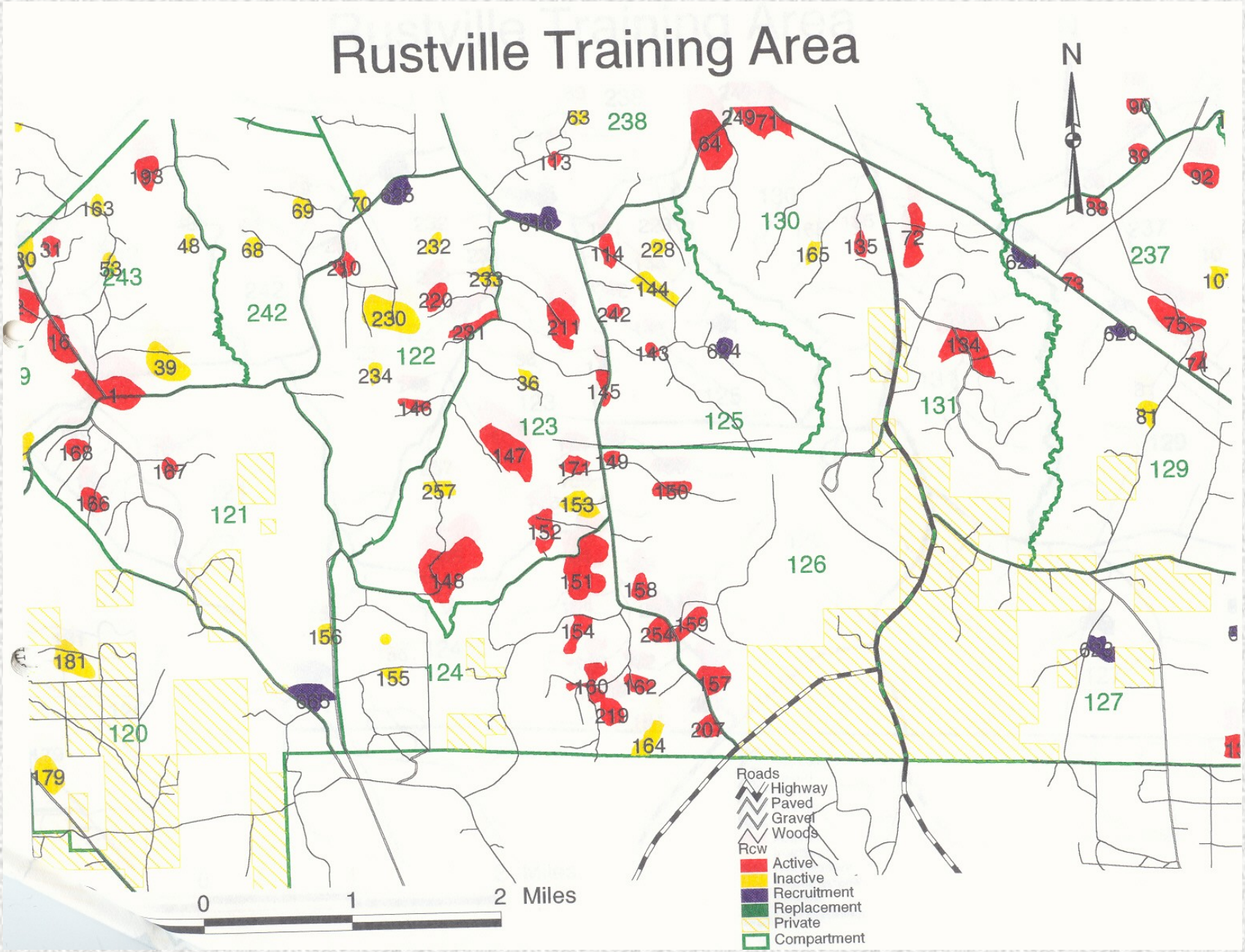
- RCW Active Cluster
- RCW Inactive Cluster
- RCW Recruitment Cluster

N
W E
S

1,875 7,500
0 3,750 15,000

FIGURE 3-13
RED-COCKADED
WOODPECKER CLUSTERS

Rustville Training Area



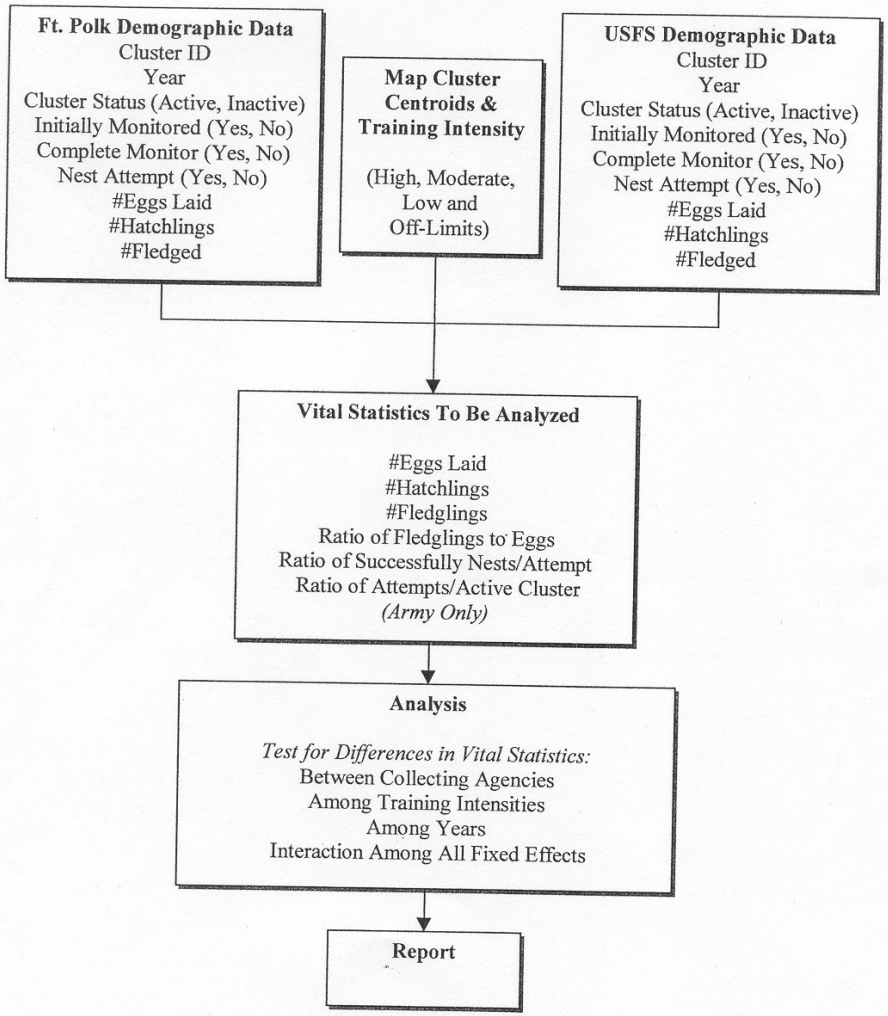


Figure 2. Detail summary of the analysis process to investigate potential effects of military training on red-cockaded woodpecker reproduction on lands used by Fort Polk, Louisiana, 1992 though 1998.

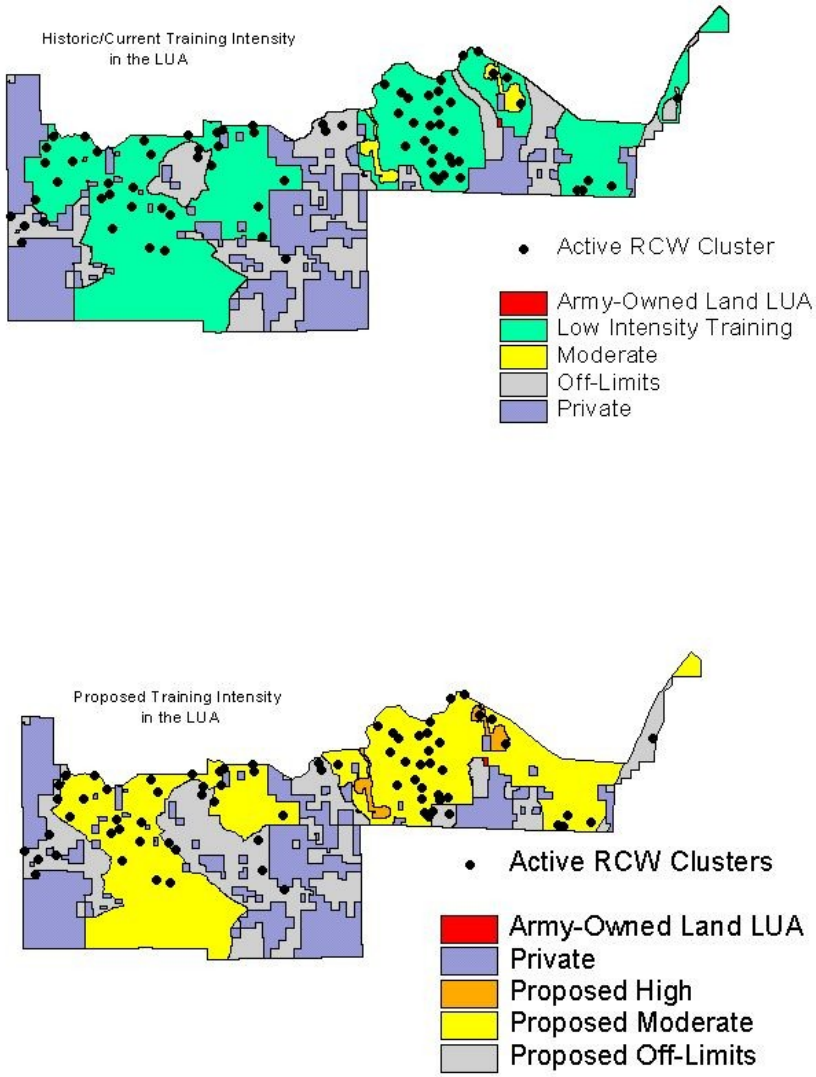


Figure 3. Historic/Current and Proposed Military Training Intensities (Wagner 1999) on the Limited Use Area of the Vernon Unit, Kisatchie National Forest.

Results

Approximately 90% LUA will experience moderate t

No significant differences in fecundity between trai

Differences in data collection between agencies

Many RCW groups acclimatized to training;
39 isolated clusters not exposed to training

Consultation Timeline

February 1998 – Informal consultation begins

FWS receives final training evaluation report- Wag

May 1999 – FWS receives final BE and request for formal consultation

Fort Polk and KNF disagree over content/analysis o

June 1999 – FWS receives joint letter resolving BE formal consultation to conclude Nov

July 1999 – Annual KNF reports show decline in RC FWS requests investigation/clarificati

Consultation Timeline

October 1999 – KNF and Fort Polk RCW reach agre
Vernon RCW cluster status;
Will agree to any needed time exte

February 2000 – FWS meets with KNF and Fort Pol
to discuss measures to avoid adv

March 2000 – KNF and Fort Polk issue joint letter
action resulting in not likely to ad

March 2000 – FWS completes biological at reques
and Fort Polk to document decision

Additional Conservation Measures

- Mark and restrict access to isolated clusters
- Monitor those clusters for compliance

- Develop joint monitoring plan for potential project effects

- Manage RCWs on Fort Polk proper and Vernon District as one population

- Begin action in fall of year

Compliance and Effectiveness Monitoring Report

Limited Use Area
Vernon Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District
Kisatchie National Forest

U.S. Army, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Louisiana
and
U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana

with Technical Assistance from

Quantitative Ecological Services, Inc.
Under URS Corporation Contract DACA56-01-G-0001

August 2002

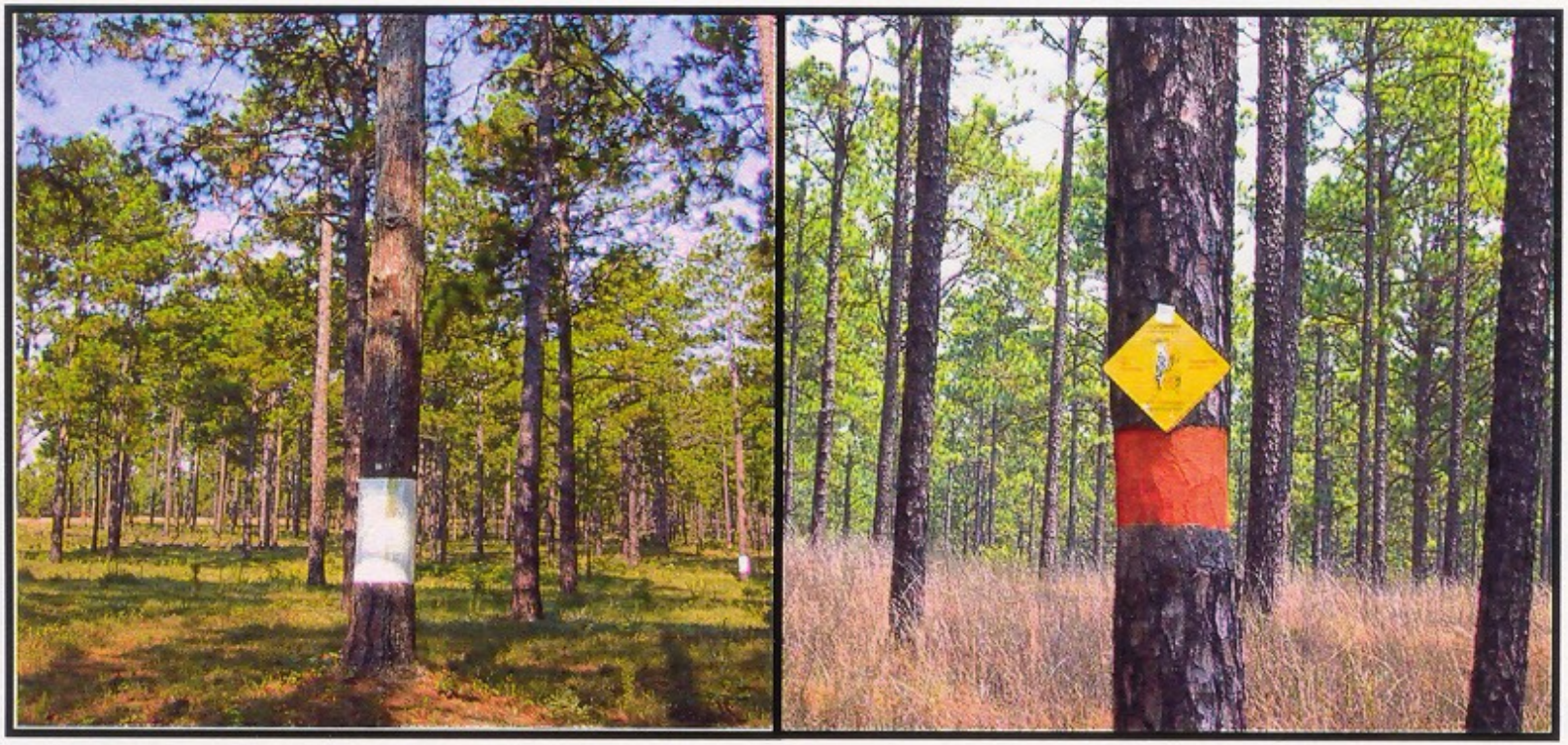


Figure 4-6. RCW clusters following maintenance. Cavity tree (left) is painted with a white band, and combustible material near the base of the tree has been removed. Cluster boundary tree (right) is painted with an orange band and marked with reflective signage indicating restrictions.

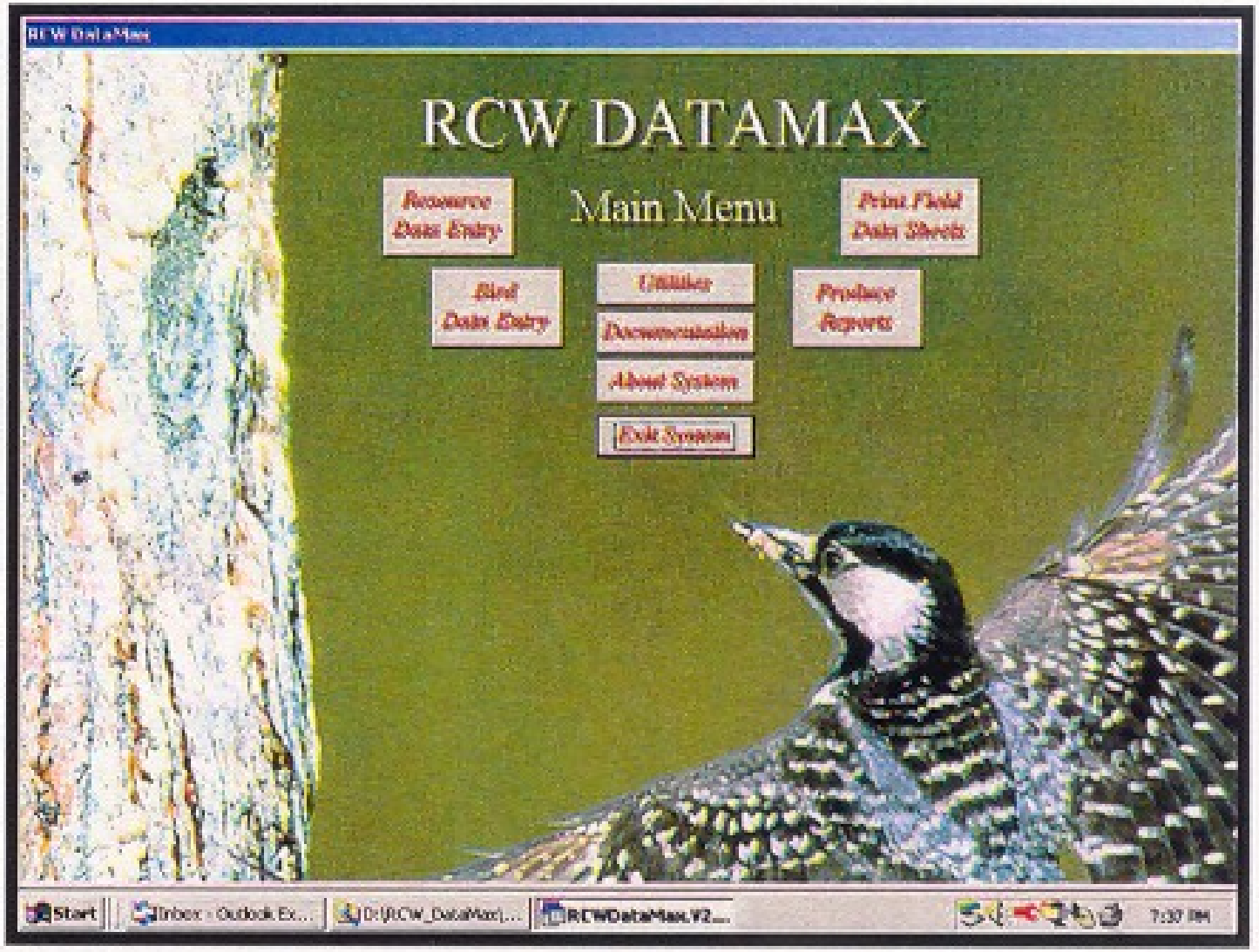


Figure 4-7. RCW DataMax system for red-cockaded woodpecker biological and management data.

Reasons Why This Could Have Failed

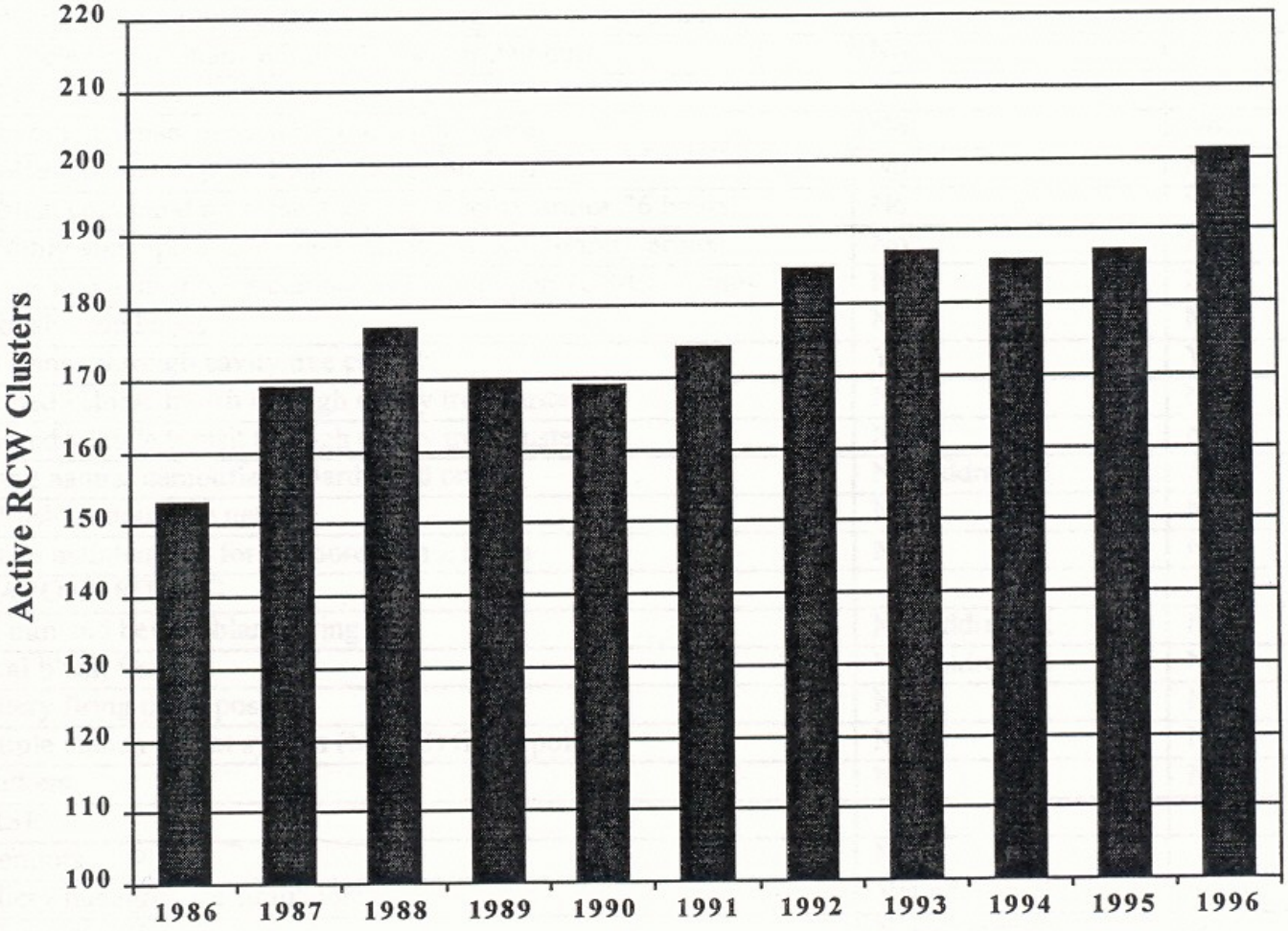
Highly Controversial
Strained Relationships
Lack of Existing Information for Analyses
Incompatible data

Reasons Why This Worked

Commitment to Make the Process Work
Early Involvement of All Agencies
Cooperation in Data Analyses, Reporting
Communication

ENDANGERED
SPECIES SITE
DO
NOT
DISTURB
RESTRICTED
ACTIVITY
RED-COCKADED
WOODPECKER

FIGURE 3-14
INCREASE IN ACTIVE RCW CLUSTERS,VERNON RANGER DISTRICT
1986 TO 1996



Source: US Forest Service, 1996, and data from Escano, 1995 and US Army, 1996a.

TRAINING ACTIVITY	FY 02				FY 03				FY 04			
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
29 recurrent training events (historically approved)	PR, ML, CR											
New Activities												
Cross-country vehicle maneuver (excluding stream crossing)				RV	JV, PT	FW						
Stream crossings * (permitted at approved sites only)									JV, FW, RV, PT			
Blackout driving				JV, FW, RV, PT								
Use of pyrotechnics and artillery simulators	RV 2&3	RV 1&4, PT, FW, JV 1&4			JV 2 & 3							
Limited digging (e.g., 1-2 man positions)				RV	JV, PT	FW						
Use of obstacles (concertina wire, simulated mines)				JV, FW, RV, PT								
Establishment of forward/rear support areas and field hospitals				RV	JV, PT	FW						

Figure 3-2. Projected Timeline for Implementation of LUA New Training Activities By Fiscal Year. Green boxes indicate time period when approval for activity was given or is expected to occur for training areas identified. Codes for Level 1 Training Areas (Approved for New Activities): JV=Johnsonville, FW=Flatwoods, RV=Rustville, PT=Pitkin. Codes for Level 2 Training Areas (Approved for 29 Recurrent Events): PR=Providence, ML=Marlow, CR=Cravens. Projections current as of June 24, 2002. Schedule is contingent on fulfillment of NEPA, mitigation and monitoring requirements and receipt of funds.

*Crossing of streams by military vehicles is deferred until appropriate crossing sites have been identified and crossing structures have been constructed. Construction of stream crossing structures will be analyzed in the Army-Forest Service Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Force Transformation and Mission Capability Enhancements, JRTC and Fort Polk, and Long-term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands. Pending completion of the EIS, construction of crossings would begin in FY04 and be completed in subsequent fiscal years.

TABLE 2-3
SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES, ALTERNATIVES 1-5

Feature	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Training Priority Option A	Alternative 3 Training Priority Option B	Alternative 4 Multiple Use Priority Option A	Alternative 5 Multiple Use Priority Option B
1. Permitted Training Activities	29 limited, recurrent exercises (see SUPA Amendment 1, App. D).	26 activities (see Table 2-1)	26 activities (see Table 2-1)	26 activities (see Table 2-1)	26 activities (see Table 2-1)
2. Priority of Land Use	When conflict exists, training exercises scheduled secondary to Forest Service and other non-training activities.	When conflict exists, training exercises scheduled with priority over Forest Service and other non-training activities.	When conflict exists, training exercises scheduled with priority over Forest Service and other non-training activities.	(1) JRTC exercises; (2) prescribed burning and other scheduled, non-training activities; and (3) stationed unit exercises.	(1) JRTC exercises; (2) prescribed burning and other scheduled, non-training activities; and (3) stationed unit exercises.
3. Forest Service/ Army Green Period [1]	Forest Service: 365 days/yr Army: None	Forest Service: 14 days/qtr Army: 77 days/qtr	Forest Service: 14 days/qtr Army: 77 days/qtr	Not applicable	Not applicable
4. LUA Acres Available for Training [2]	32,049	37,585	44,799	44,799	44,799
5. LUA Acres Off-Limits to Training	12,750	7,214	0	0	0
6. Seasonal Training Restrictions	None	None	None	No training in January (East LUA); October (West LUA); April, November or December. (East and West LUA)	No training in April, October, November or December.
7. LUA Areas/Time Periods Available for Training Exercises	All training areas year-round.	All training areas during Army Green Period; some training areas during Forest Service Green Period, with prior approval from Forest Service.	All training areas during Army Green Period; some training areas during Forest Service Green Period, with prior approval from Forest Service.	All training areas in February, March, and May – September each year. West training areas in January and East training areas in October.	All training areas in January – March and May – September each year.
8. LUA Areas/Time Periods Available for JRTC Exercises	None [3]	All training areas available for 10-11 rotations per year during Army Green Period (no rotation typically conducted in July or December).	All training areas available for 10-11 rotations per year during Army Green Period (no rotation typically conducted in July or December).	East/west half of LUA available for up to 9 rotations per year, for up to 10 days per rotation	East/west half of LUA available for up to 8 rotations per year, for up to 10 days per rotation.
9. LUA Areas/Time Periods Available for Co-use [4]	All LUA training areas available year-round.	Various areas/times during Army Green Period, as determined by the Army.	Various areas/times during Army Green Period, as determined by the Army.	All LUA training areas during periods listed in item 7 above, except those located within JRTC box.	All LUA training areas during periods listed in item 7 above, except those located within JRTC box.

TRAINING ACTIVITY	Training Areas Approved for New Activities (Level 1 TAs)				Training Areas Approved for 29 Historic Events (Level 2 TAs)		
	Johnsonville	Flatwoods	Rustville	Pitkin	Providence	Marlow	Cravens
29 recurrent training events (historically approved)	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY02
New Activities							
Cross-country maneuver (excluding stream crossing)	1 QTR FY03	2 QTR FY03	4 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY03	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stream crossings* (permitted at approved sites only)	FY04 and later	FY04 and later	FY04 and later	FY04 and later	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blackout driving	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	N/A	N/A	N/A
Use of pyrotechnics and artillery simulators	JV 1, 2 & 4 - 2 QTR FY02; JV 3 - 1 QTR FY03	2 QTR FY02	RV 2 & 3 - 1 QTR FY02; RV 1 & 4 - 2 QTR FY02	2 QTR FY02	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limited digging (e.g., 1-2 man positions)	1 QTR FY03	2 QTR FY03	4 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY03	N/A	N/A	N/A
Use of obstacles (concertina wire, simulated mines)	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	4 QTR FY02	N/A	N/A	N/A
Establishment of forward/ rear support areas and field hospitals	1 QTR FY03	2 QTR FY03	4 QTR FY02	1 QTR FY03	N/A	N/A	N/A

Figure 3-1. Projected Timeline for Implementation of New Training Activities By Training Area. Approval status: Red = activity not currently approved in training area; Amber = activity approved in portion of training area; Green = activity approved throughout training area; Gray = 29 historic events approved only. Text in red, amber and green boxes indicates time period when approval for activity was given or is expected to occur. Codes for Level 1 Training Areas (Approved for New Activities): JV=Johnsonville, FW=Flatwoods, RV=Rustville, PT=Pitkin. Codes for Level 2 Training Areas (Approved for 29 Recurrent Events): PR=Providence, ML=Marlow, CR=Cravens. Projections current as of June 24, 2002. Schedule is contingent on fulfillment of NEPA, mitigation and monitoring requirements and receipt of funds.

*Crossing of streams by military vehicles is deferred until appropriate crossing sites have been identified and crossing structures have been constructed. Construction of stream crossing structures will be analyzed in the Army-Forest Service *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Force Transformation and Mission Capability Enhancements, JRTC and Fort Polk, and Long-term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands*. Pending completion of the EIS, construction of crossings would begin in FY04 and be completed in subsequent fiscal years.

TABLE 2-3
SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES, ALTERNATIVES 1-5

Feature	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Training Priority Option A	Alternative 3 Training Priority Option B	Alternative 4 Multiple Use Priority Option A	Alternative 5 Multiple Use Priority Option B
10. Restrictions on Public Access to LUA (6)	None	Training areas scheduled for JRTC and selected stationed unit exercises.	Training areas scheduled for JRTC and selected stationed unit exercises.	Training areas for JRTC training exercises only.	Training areas for JRTC training exercises only.
11. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Status and Hunting Opportunities in LUA	Hunting permitted throughout LUA during scheduled seasons, in accordance with State regulations.	Inclusion of LUA in Fort Polk WMA to be negotiated with state. Hunting to be allowed using self check-in/check-out system with areas selectively closed for training exercises. Hunting seasons to be extended.	Inclusion of LUA in Fort Polk WMA to be negotiated with state. Hunting to be allowed using self check-in/check-out system with areas selectively closed for training exercises. Hunting seasons to be extended.	Inclusion of LUA in Fort Polk WMA to be negotiated with state. Hunting to be allowed using self check-in/check-out system. At least ½ of LUA to be open for hunting in October and January, and all of LUA open in April, November and December.	Inclusion of LUA in Fort Polk WMA to be negotiated with state. Hunting to be allowed using self check-in/check-out system. All of LUA to be open for hunting in April, October, November and December. Some/all of LUA closed for training exercises in January.
12. Wild Turkey Habitat Management Area (Walk-in Area) Status	Vehicle traffic restricted on designated roads from 1 March to 31 August.	Vehicle traffic restricted on designated roads from 1 March to 31 August.	Seasonal restrictions on vehicle travel on designated roads to be repealed.	Seasonal restrictions on vehicle travel on designated roads to be reduced to month of April.	Seasonal restrictions on vehicle travel on designated roads to be repealed.
13. Environmental Restrictions	Existing SUPA conditions; and applicable federal, state, local and Army regulations.	SUPA conditions, as amended; and applicable federal, state, local and Army regulations (see Table 2-1).	SUPA conditions, as amended; and applicable federal, state, local and Army regulations (see Table 2-1).	SUPA conditions, as amended; and applicable federal, state, local and Army regulations (see Table 2-1).	SUPA conditions, as amended; and applicable federal, state, local and Army regulations (see Table 2-1).
14. Use of Private Land	None	None	None	None	None

NOTES

LUA – Limited Use Area; JRTC – Joint Readiness Training Center; SUPA – Special Use Permit Agreement between US Forest Service and US Army, Fort Polk.

(1) Green Period indicates time during which Forest Service or Army activities have priority.
(2) Includes imbedded areas that are off-limits to training (e.g., red-cockaded woodpecker clusters, cultural resource sites, and other marked environmentally sensitive areas).
(3) Limited activities have been conducted in the LUA in support of JRTC exercises; however, current SUPA restrictions limit or preclude use of the LUA for most activities associated with JRTC exercises. In addition, use of the LUA for JRTC exercises is limited because no mechanism exists for restricting non-training activities within the LUA as needed to maintain realism of the training scenario.
(4) Co-use indicates concurrent use for training and non-training activities.
(5) The existing SUPA does not impose restrictions on training during scheduled hunting seasons. However, training activities in the LUA are voluntarily avoided by the Army during hunting seasons for troop safety.
(6) See exceptions noted in Section 2.2.1 for travel on public roads and activities on private property; Forest Service special resource management activities; developed recreation complexes; and oil and gas development activities.

DESCRIPTION OF SIX NEW LIMITED USE AREA TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- **Cross-country vehicle maneuvers.** This activity would involve off-road movement of limited numbers of tracked or wheeled vehicles. Off-road vehicle movement would consist primarily of movement for short distances from assembly areas and other fixed areas of operation in upland areas to nearby improved roads. Unimproved Forest Service roads would also be used for cross-country movement. Occasional stream crossings would occur at designated hardened crossing sites.

- **Blackout driving.** Blackout driving would be conducted primarily on unimproved Forest Service roads. Cross-country driving under blackout conditions would occasionally be required for tactical purposes. However, military vehicles would typically be road bound at night due the difficulty of maneuvering off-road under blackout conditions.

- **Use of pyrotechnics and artillery simulation devices.** This activity would involve limited use of various devices to simulate direct and indirect artillery fire, use of smoke and obscurants, and flares. These devices would be used only by Officers in Charge, Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge, and specially trained personnel know as "firemarkers."

- **Construction of hasty/limited defensive positions.** Hasty or limited defensive positions, commonly known as foxholes, would be constructed in upland areas. These positions would typically consist of shallow holes (up to 12 inches deep) to provide protection for a single individual. Larger two-man excavations would also be constructed for concealment and firing of crew-served weapons. These positions would primarily be constructed around fixed areas of operation such as bivouac/assembly areas, tactical operations centers, and forward/rear support areas and/or field hospitals. All excavations would be filled in at the close of the training exercise.

- **Emplacement of obstacles.** Concertina or barbed wire would be strung at intersections of unimproved Forest Service roads, around defensive positions, and at checkpoints and entrances to fixed areas of operation. Simulated mines consisting of inert material would be buried just beneath the ground surface or scattered along improved Forest Service roads and around fixed operation sites. All wire and simulated mines would be removed at the close of the training exercise.

- **Establishment of forward/rear support areas and/or field hospitals.** This activity would be similar to bivouacking/establishment of troop assembly areas (activity no. 19), but would allow expanded operations such as field hospitals which have not been previously conducted in the LUA. Operations conducted under this activity would be primarily for combat support rather than tactical purposes.

LIST OF 29 HISTORICALLY APPROVED LIMITED USE AREA TRAINING EVENTS

1. Mounted and/or dismounted land navigation
2. Helicopter landing and refueling sites (no arming)
3. Airborne operations, no live ordnance
4. Helicopter air landing and removal of personnel and equipment
5. Dismounted patrolling
6. Mounted patrolling (including bridge classification)
7. Mounted and dismounted road marching
8. Assembly area bivouac training
9. Simulated chemical training
10. Escape and evasion
11. Mass casualty evacuation
12. Helicopter sling loading operations
13. Field Training Exercises (FTX)
14. Military Intelligence FTX
15. Command Post Exercises (CPX)
16. Communication FTX
17. Special Operation Forces (SOF) training operations and recovery missions
18. Survival training
19. Tracked command vehicle positioned at stationary location during exercise
20. First aid and litter carrying exercise
21. Tactical exercise without troops (TEWT)
22. Leader stakes
23. Squad raid exercises
24. Combat search and rescue exercises
25. Helicopter aeroscout testing-air recon simulated threat training
26. External evaluations
27. Aviation tasks
28. Scout stakes
29. Convoy supply training

Potential Action Effects on RCWs

- **Disturbance affecting reproduction**
  - **Courtship, breeding, feeding**
- **Habitat loss**
  - **Cavity trees, foraging habitat**
- **Access**
  - **Monitoring, banding, trapping, cluster provisioning**
- **Prescribed burning**
- **Wildfire supression**

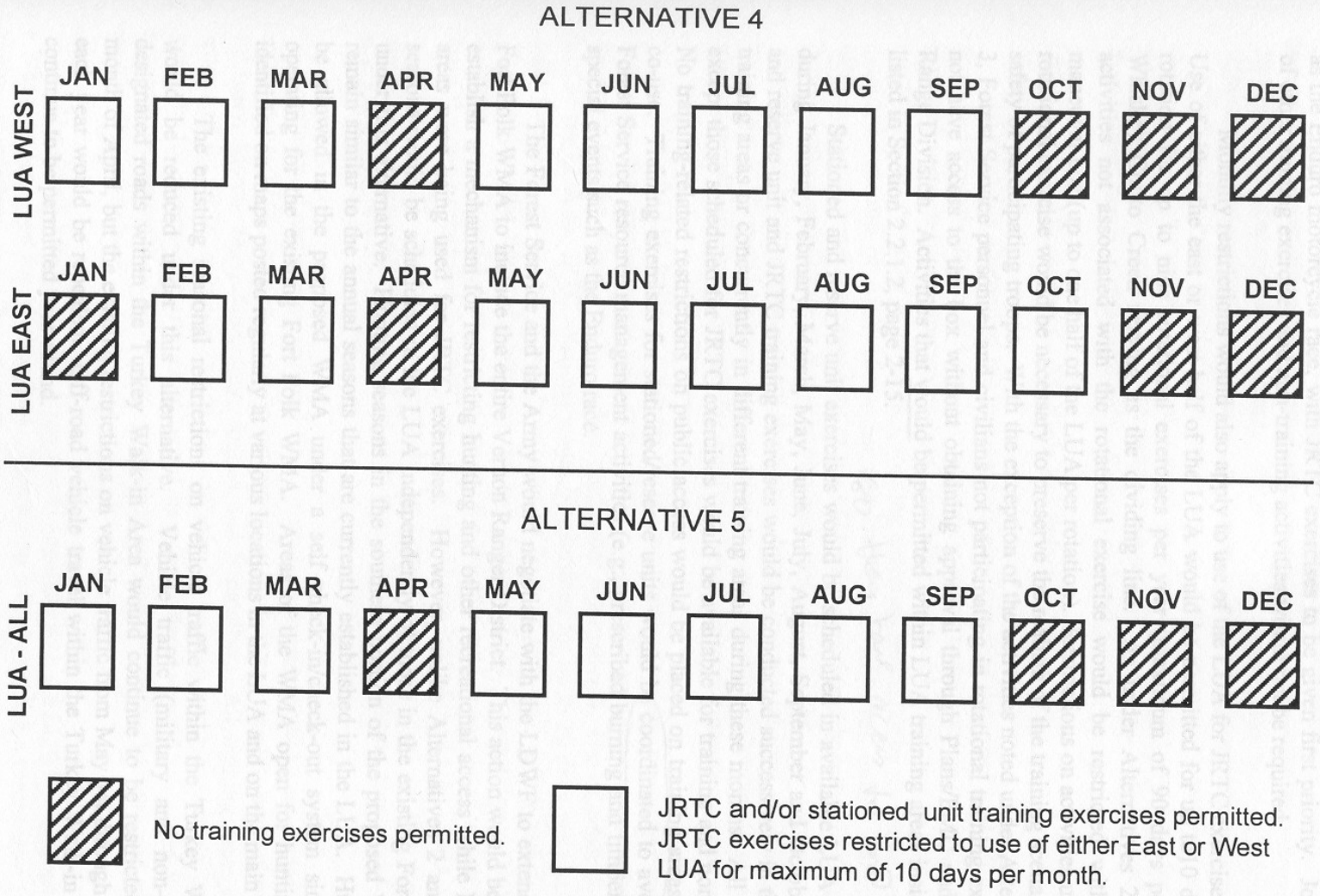

ALTERNATIVE 4
LUA WEST
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
LUA EAST
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
ALTERNATIVE 5
LUA - ALL
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
No training exercises permitted.
JRTC and/or stationed unit training exercises permitted.
JRTC exercises restricted to use of either East or West
LUA for maximum of 10 days per month.

Figure 2-5
Proposed Seasonal and Monthly Training Restrictions
Alternatives 4 and 5

TABLE 1-2
AVAILABLE TRAINING LAND ACREAGE

Land Ownership	Total Training Land (a)	Total Limited Use/ Off-Limits Areas (b)	Total Dedicated Impact Areas (c)	Total Firing Ranges/ SDZs (d)	Available Maneuver Area Without SDZs (a)-(b+c)	Available Maneuver Area With SDZs (a)-(b+c+d)
Army	91,049 (1)	6,938 (3)	13,485	48,784	78,646	21,842
Forest Service	98,125 (2)	64,553 (4)	888	32,684	32,684	0
Intensive Use	40,506	6,934	888	32,684	32,684	0
Limited Use	44,799	44,799	0	0	0	0
Special Limited Use	12,820	12,820	0	0	0	0
Total	189,174	71,491	14,373	81,468	103,310	21,842

Notes:

SDZ = Surface Danger Zone. SDZ are temporary areas associated with active live fire ranges.

(1) Does not include 8,050 acres in the cantonment areas, 442 acres of leased lands, 387 acres in easements, 24 acres at Toledo Bend Recreation Area or 57 acres in railroad rights-of-way. Total Army fee-owned land is 100,009 acres.

(2) Includes 40,026 acres of Intensive Use (main post) and 480 acres of Intensive Use (Peason); 44,799 acres of Limited Use; and 12,820 acres of Special Limited Use land.

(3) Includes areas which are off-limits to some or all maneuver activities due to environmental and/or safety restrictions.

(4) Includes approximately 6,934 acres in the IUA which are off-limits to some or all maneuver activities due to environmental and/or safety restrictions, plus 44,799 acres of Limited Use and 12,820 acres of Special Limited Use lands which are unavailable/off-limits for some or all maneuver exercises due to existing permit restrictions.

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR INCREASED MILITARY TRAINING USE OF THE VERNON RANGER DISTRICT, KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

FORT POLK, LOUISIANA

FEBRUARY 1998

Photographed by Derrick Hamrick